THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up any food processing units on their own. However, financial assistance under the Plan schemes is extended to Non-Governmental Organisations, Co-operatives, Private Industries and Public Sector Undertakings, for setting up food processing units including those based on agriculture and in rural areas.

Value addition to fruits and vegetables

1098. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while India is the largest producer of fruits and vegetables with 132 million tonnes,its processing level is hardly 2 to 3 per cent, as compared to 83 per cent in Malaysia, 72 per cent in Thailand, 70 per cent in UK and 50 per cent in Brazil; and

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of utilizing the immense scope for value addition, so that our farmers get adequate price for their produce and country's exports also get the boost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The processing level of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated to be around 2% of production.

(b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries seeks to enhance value addition for farm produce and thereby higher value realisation to farmers through assistance under its Plan Schemes to Private Sector Industries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Co-operatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development Institutions, Research and Development Institutions etc. Besides, a number of policy initiatives have been taken to promote this sector.

Employment opportunities in FPIs

†1099. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.